

THE EAGLE

2004 Air Force Assistance
Fund campaign in full swing:
See page 2.

Vol. XXIX
No. 3

70th Intelligence Wing
Fort George G. Meade, Maryland

April 2004

Col. Gortler assumes command of 70 IW

by TSgt. Kristina Brown

70th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs
Fort Meade, Md.

Col. Fred W. Gortler III assumed command of the 70th Intelligence Wing from Col. James O. Poss in a ceremony here Jan. 15. The presiding officer for the ceremony was 8th Air Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson.

As the presiding officer, the general said a few words about the wing and its incoming and outgoing commanders. "Under the leadership of Jim Poss, you've continued to revolutionize the Air Force signals intelligence mission, and you were ready when it mattered most in time of war," he said. "You can all be justifiably proud of the role you played in one of the most intelligence-intensive wars in the history of our nation – Operation Iraqi Freedom ... When all was said and done, the 70th directly contributed to the



photo by TSgt. Kristina Brown

From left, Col. James O. Poss, outgoing 70 IW commander, and Col. Fred W. Gortler III, incoming 70 IW commander salute the Colors as they are posted during the ceremony.

In Brief

Nearing military retirement?

Retired pay is paid only for the life of the member. Prior to retiring, you must decide whether you want to cover a portion of your retired pay under the Survivor Benefit Plan. Enrollment in the SBP for full spouse coverage would give your spouse an annuity of 55 percent of your retired pay upon your death until age 62 and then 35 percent thereafter. Anything less requires your spouse's concurrence. Call the 694th Support Squadron's SBP Counselor, Ms. Wanda Sims at 301-677-0202.

damage or destruction of 95 percent of Iraqi air defenses."

After recounting some of the wing's accomplishments during Colonel Poss' command, the general affirmed his confidence in the wing's future operations under Colonel Gortler's leadership. "I know the 70th will continue to build on its reputation for providing the right information to the right people at the right time," said General Carlson.

Before presenting Colonel Poss with the Legion of Merit medal and performing the change of command, the general again praised the wing for its efforts in Operation Iraqi Freedom saying, "Thanks in part to the tremendous efforts of this wing, Saddam Hussein is out of business, and 25 million Iraqi people are free of an oppres-

sive dictator."

Colonel Poss, who is moving on to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, to be the Director of Intelligence at Headquarters, United States Air Force in Europe, next took the podium to say his goodbyes. "It's always a tough time, changing commands – the fact that this is my fourth time doing it doesn't make it any easier," he said.

The colonel went on to praise the wing and its accomplishments during his command. "Although no one who has ever actually fought in a war would ever advocate participating in another war, I do have to say that while I regret we had to go to war, I am proud of the way my wing,

See "Change," page 3

2004 AFAF campaign in full swing

Why support the Air Force Assistance Fund?

The Air Force Assistance Fund was established to provide for an annual effort to raise funds for the charitable affiliates that provide support to the Air Force family (active duty, retirees, reservists, guard and their dependents, including surviving spouses) in need.

How You Can Help

Neither the AFAF or any of the AFAF affiliates receive taxpayers' support. Because the AFAF campaign is Air Force people helping Air Force people directly, administrative and fund-raising costs are among the lowest in the nation. In fact, 95 cents or more of every dollar contributed is actually spent on the AFAF mission — assisting Air Force members and their families. The AFAF affiliates rely largely on your voluntary contributions, which may be made during the annual AFAF drive directly to unit key workers or by payroll deductions.

AFAF Affiliates

Air Force Aid Society: The AFAS is the official charity of the Air Force. It is chartered to assist in relieving financial emergencies faced by active duty members and their families. It also assists Reserve and Guard personnel who are on extended active duty or

face unique emergencies.

Qualified members are given interest-free loans or grants during personal and family emergencies. In addition, the AFAS manages its own Education Fund, which has awarded 67,000 grants since 1988, and helps spouses with the cost of education overseas through the Spouse Tuition Assistance Program.

AFAS funds are also used to support community initiatives including: Child Care for Volunteers, Bundles for Babies, Car Care Because We Care, Youth Employment Skills, Child Care for PCS, Give Parents a Break Programs, and special phone cards for deployed members.

For more information on the AFAS, visit the website at www.afas.org or contact the Fort Meade Family Support Services Liaison, TSgt. Kirkland Brown at 301-677-3617.

The General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation: This organization has cared for widows of the Air Force officer since 1987. Then, in 1998, the charter was expanded to include care for spouses of retired Air Force personnel of all ranks, left to survive with little or no financial resources.

The LeMay Foundation provides finan-

cial aid to spouses who supported the careers of Air Force members during many PCSs, changing schools midterm, raising children in the absence of TDY spouses, and other hardships.

For more information on the LeMay Foundation, contact the main office at 909-697-2099.

Air Force Enlisted Village (Formerly the Air Force Enlisted Widows Home/Air Force Enlisted Foundation): The AFEV is non-profit, one-of-a-kind organization providing a home for widows/surviving spouses of retired enlisted Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve military members.

Since 1975, more than 1,500 widows and surviving spouses aged 55 to 101 have had a safe haven to call home and live among their peers sharing memories of Air Force life without the stigma normally associated with subsidized housing facilities.

AFEV helps active-duty members, too, providing temporary housing and services -- up to 12 months -- to spouses of enlisted members who are killed or who die on active duty. Additionally, adult dependents (typically parents of active duty members or

See "AFAF," page 3

Commander's Action Line

A direct link to the 70th Intelligence Wing Commander

The action line is a monthly column designed to address the questions and concerns of members of the 70th Intelligence Wing.

The column is intended as a forum to support individual concerns and should be used in conjunction with the chain of command, inspector general, chaplain, or other professional means.

Try to resolve issues and problems at the lowest level possible. If you feel you are not getting satisfac-

tory results, you may direct your concern to this forum.

Questions and concerns must be accompanied by a complete name, phone number or e-mail address for official responses. For privacy concerns, names will be withheld from newsprint on request. All Action Line items will receive the commander's attention. Action items can be brought into the public affairs office in building 9805, room 222 or e-mailed to 70iw.pa@ft-meade.af.mil.



This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of **THE EAGLE** are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 70th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs Office. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

THE EAGLE is a monthly publication. Deadline for submissions is the second Monday of the month prior to publication. Call Public Affairs at 301-677-0838/0600 with story ideas or items of interest. Public Affairs is located in Bldg. 9805, room 222.

Editorial staff **Commander**

Col. Fred W. Gortler, III
Vice Commander

Col. Colton McKethan

Chief, Public Affairs

TSgt. Marilyn C. Holliday

NCOIC, Public Affairs

TSgt. Kristina Brown



photo by TSgt. Kristina Brown

Members of the 70th IW await the ceremony in formation.

"Change," from page 1

NSA and my brothers and sisters in Army intelligence reacted to this conflict ... I've never been more proud of NSA (National Security Agency), AIA (Air Intelligence Agency) or Air Force intelligence itself."

Finally, Colonel Poss assured everyone the wing would be in excellent hands. "Although leaving what could be your final command is tough, seeing my good friend Fred Gortler sitting beside me, ready to assume command lets me leave with complete confidence," said Colonel Poss. "Fred is precisely the type of commander this wing needs to take it even further. He has the cryptologic experience needed.

He certainly has the command experience needed ... Above all, he has the spirit and integrity this job requires. I can honestly say I've never met a more positive, or a more moral commander than Fred Gortler."

Colonel Gortler comes to the 70th from the 373d Intelligence Group at Misawa Air Base, Japan, where he commanded both the 373d IG and the Misawa Security Operations Center.

As he took to the podium, Colonel Gortler first affirmed his dedication to the men and women of the 70th IW. "The Air Force has invested heavily in the Gortler family, and we are prepared and committed to serving the warriors and extended family of the 70th," he said. Colonel Gortler went on to stress how vital the wing's intelli-

gence mission is.

"The last few years have truly tested America. And now, perhaps more than any other time, our nation and our Air Force place an extremely high premium on precise intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance to protect our values, our homes and our families — those we hold dearest ..." said Colonel Gortler.

The colonel continued, "Our intelligence is an absolutely essential ingredient in combat planning and execution. At our finest, we keep our national leadership fully informed, driving political and diplomatic processes aimed at deterring conflict and preventing war. When deterrence is not an option, our intelligence drives the application of combat battle, posturing America's defenders to achieve national objectives, all the while minimizing the loss of life not only to our force, but to the adversaries as well. We serve a truly great nation in a very exciting and challenging time."

In closing, Col. Gortler addressed the wing's members, "Airmen and civilians of the 70th, I will earn, every day, the honor of having America's finest men and women as my credentials, and the Gortler family commits itself to you and you families."

Perhaps the event's chaplain, Col. Henry Wilbourne, summed up everyone's hope for the wing as it presses into 2004 under Colonel Gortler's leadership, "May the 70th Intelligence Wing attain the highest levels of effectiveness in the fight for freedom, decency and those values that make for a strong and righteous nation."

"AFAF," from page 2



their spouses) are eligible for permanent housing on a space-available basis.

For more information on the Air Force Enlisted Village, visit the website at www.afenlistedwidows.org or email questions to afef@afenlistedfoundation.org.

Air Force Village Indigent Widows' Fund: The Air Force Village Foundation financially supports widows of Air Force officers who demonstrate need for subsistence. Since opening its doors in

1970, Air Force Village has grown to include two premier continuing care retirement communities serving military officers and family members from all services.

Since its inception, the foundation has provided more than \$7.8 million of assistance -- \$645,000 last year.

In addition to support of indigent widows, the foundation directly supports active duty members in several ways:

The services of the health care center are available to military members of all ranks and their dependents; families of officers killed on active duty are offered living accommoda-

tions for up to one year while putting their lives back together following their loss; and the dependent parent program provides comfortable and secure residential, assisted living, or health care center accommodations for elderly dependents.

For more information on the Air Force Village Indigent Widow's Fund, visit the website at www.airforcevillages.com.

To find out who your unit AFAF representative is, contact your orderly room or the 70th Intelligence Wing representative, TSgt. Jacqueline Burton at 301-677-7304 or via email at jacqueline.burton@ft-meade.af.mil.

373 IG, MSOC welcome new commander



A joint formation honors Col. Bender as he takes command of the 373d Intelligence Group and the jointly manned Misawa Security Operations Center Jan 9. (Courtesy photo)

by **Maj. William Bessemer**
373dIG
Misawa AB, Japan

Col. Gary C. Bender assumed command of the Misawa Security Operations Center and the 373d Intelligence Group on Jan. 9.

Col. Bender comes to the 373d IG from duty as Deputy Director of Assessments on the Joint Staff at the Pentagon. He replaces

Col. Fred W. Gortler, III, who assumed duties as the 70th Intelligence Wing Commander at Fort George G. Meade, Md., Jan 15.

Col. Brian W. Storck, Deputy Chief, DOD Special Representative Pacific, was the presiding official for the MSOC, and Col. James O. Poss, outgoing 70th Intelligence Wing Commander, presided for the 373d Intelligence Group.



Col. Gary C. Bender

Raised in Belleville, Ill., Col. Bender is a graduate of Southern Illinois University and earned graduate level degrees at Golden Gate University and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

Col. Bender has served in 13 assignments, including a command tour at the 29th Intelligence Squadron at Fort Meade.



*Have a great story idea?
Let us share it with our unique, world-wide wing!
How can we serve you better?
Call public affairs at 301-677-0600/0838 (DSN 622),
or email us at 70iw.pa@ft-meade.af.mil.*

Recognition is just a click away:

Download a Hometown News Release (DD Form 2266) from the Air Force website and fill it out regarding your latest accomplishment or event. Submit it to public affairs, and you're done!

Adopt-A-Vet:

Meade Top Three pitches in on local home improvements



photo by TSgt. Marilyn Holliday

Mrs. Holly Irizarry, wife of MSgt. Ray Irizarry, 29th Intelligence Squadron, paints the trim on Baltimore County resident, Ginnie Schroeder's, house.

by TSgt. Marilyn C. Holliday

70th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs
Fort Meade, Md.

With paint brushes, sandpaper, hammers and nails in hand, volunteers from the Meade Top Three set out to make a difference in the community.

Fifteen volunteers arrived at the home of Ginnie Schroeder, an 82-year-old resident of Baltimore county. Their mission – to accomplish general home repairs before Old Man Winter arrives in Maryland.

The Adopt-A-Vet program began in 2001 as part of the 694th Intelligence Group's First Six Association, originally headed by MSgt. Tom Clodfelter, who is now the at the National Air and Space Intelligence Center.

In June 2003, the Meade Top Three took

control of the Adopt-A-Vet program and has since assigned a primary and alternate sponsor for seven local veterans. In addition to the 14 Meade Top Three members, six other volunteers have signed up to extend a helping hand both physically and socially and they do everything from home restoration, grocery deliveries and yard work.

"As important as these functions are, nothing can substitute the strong social and personal bonds that are formed through these relationships with people in our community," SMSgt. Lee Wofford, Adopt-A-Vet program coordinator, said.

Although Schroeder is not a veteran, her ex-husband, brother and cousin were all veterans. She gave numerous

volunteer hours for the USO, American Red Cross and American Legion. Schroeder's situation was relayed to the Meade Top Three via the local Meals on Wheels program.

"We simply accepted her as one of our own because of her needs," Wofford said. "We were able to restore her home, built in the 1950s, with about 24 hours of work spread over three days."

The team of volunteers sanded and painted 15 windows and two doors, plus replaced 9 feet of flashing and an attic vent.

"I live on \$518 a month and my state of health is not what it used to be," Schroeder said. "When I think about what all they've done, it puts tears in my eyes. I'm extremely grateful."

"It's totally unexpected," she said. "I could try and do the repairs myself, but they wouldn't be as good. I love the rapport and the cooperation among the volunteers."

The Adopt-A-Vet program is one of the Meade Top Three Outreach Committee's primary outlets for fostering a positive relationship with the Fort Meade community.

Currently the volunteers care for veterans from Silver Springs to Laurel and Odenton to Baltimore. When Hurricane Isabel was headed for Maryland, volunteers were called upon for assistance before and after the hurricane hit.

Plans are already underway for setting up a snow removal team that will be in place for late December. "I realize that it's critical for us to mentor our young airman today," Wofford said. "It's also extremely important that we show respect and honor our veterans today."

The program currently also honors special support requests of the local Disabled American Veterans, Post 33 in Odenton and coordinates with other area DAVs and American Legion posts for support services.

"Because of service-related disability and advancing age, several of the adopted veterans have special needs that require professional care," Wofford said.

See "Adopt," page 9

